

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-7, 15, 17-24, 27-32, 38, 40, and 42-48 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 4-5, 15, 17-21, 23-24, 27, 30, 32, 38, 40, 42 and 43 have been amended, and claims 25-26, 34 and 36 have been cancelled. By this amendment, claims 44-48 are added. Claims 1 and 18-21 are the independent claims.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the Office Action on May 20, 2009. As discussed during interview, Applicants have amended the independent claims to clarify their features in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. For instance, claim 1 recites "each entry point map for identifying a **plurality** of entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path." As discussed during the interview, Kikuchi only discloses one destination address for each reproduction path.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 and 18-21

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,523, hereinafter "Kikuchi") in view of Tsumagari et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,669, hereinafter "Tsumagari"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "each entry point map for identifying a **plurality** of entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path." As

discussed during the interview, Kikuchi fails to disclose or suggest these features. For example, the Examiner appears to interpret the “destination address of angle cell number 1” of the corresponding angle “NSLS_ANGC1_DSTA” of FIG. 29 of Kikuchi as an entry point. For instance, the Examiner asserts that the destination address reflected in FIG. 29 provides an entry point for a corresponding angle. Although Applicants do not agree that the destination address of FIG. 29 of Kikuchi is an “entry point” within the meaning of claim 1, Kikuchi does not disclose “a plurality of entry points” because each reproduction path of Kikuchi (e.g., NSLS_ANGLI) only has **one** destination address. In direct contrast, claim 1 requires that each EP map (which is associated with one of the multiple reproduction paths) includes a plurality of entry points. Therefore, Kikuchi cannot possibly suggest an entry point map within the meaning of claim 1.

In addition, Applicants submit that Kikuchi fails to disclose or suggest “the path change information includes a field for identifying whether changing reproduction paths is permitted in relation to the associated entry point and another field for identifying where changing reproduction paths is permitted in relation to the associated entry point” also required by claim 1. For instance, the Examiner relies upon FIG. 40 of Kikuchi as disclosing the “path change information” of claim 1. Referring to FIG. 40 of Kikuchi, step S40 checks the **presence or absence** of angle data. For instance, if there is not an angle to be changed in step S40, a message is displayed that indicates that no angle data is present. If there is angle data, in step S42, an angle number will be changed according to the specified angle number on the key/display section 4. Step S40 or step S42 does not identify whether changing paths is **permitted** in relation to the associated entry point. Rather, the method of Kikuchi only looks for the presence of angle data. In addition, the alleged “path change information” (e.g., Step S40 and S42 of FIG. 40) is not included an EP map, which is allegedly the “NSLS_ANGLI” of FIG. 29.

Independent claims 18-21 have been amended to include features similar to the above recited features of claim 1, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3-7, 17, 22-32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 43

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-7, 17, 22-32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Tsumagari, and further in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,004, hereinafter "Sato"). Claims 3-7, 17, 22-32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 43, dependent on claims 1 and 18-21, are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. In addition, Sato fails to cure the deficiencies of Kikuchi and Tsumagari with respect to the above-identified features of claim 1. Therefore, Kikuchi, Tsumagari and Sato, alone or in combination, cannot render these claims obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 15

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Tsumagari and Sato, and further in view of Sawabe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,962, hereinafter "Sawabe"). Claim 15, dependent on claim 1, is patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. In addition, Sawabe fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kikuchi, Tsumagari and Sato. Therefore, Sawabe, Kikuchi, Tsumagari and Sato, alone or in combination, cannot render claim 15 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 44-48, dependent on claims 1 and 18-21, are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. In addition, Applicants submit that none of the cited references disclose or suggest concepts of a playlist and/or playitem. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests claims 44-48 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

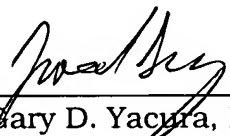
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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